

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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APPROVED BY AF/C:RANDREW

AF/C:RRSTRAND

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S/R/ORM:CCPAPPAS (DRAFT)

AF/I:JAANDEREGG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO DEPT OF ARMY

COMDT USAES FT BELVOIR/ ATSE-SE-AL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264658

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CGEN, CG (KUFU SUMBA)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

REF: KINSHASA 9651

1. CAPTAIN KUFU SUMBA, A MEMBER OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMY,
REQUESTED ON NOVEMBER 3 AND COMPLETED ON NOVEMBER 5 AN
APPLICATION FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES.
CAPTAIN KUFU IS NOW TAKING ENGINEERING OFFICER'S
TRAINING AT FORT BELVOIR AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO
ZAIRE ON DECEMBER 3. WHILE THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT YET
AWARE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES MOTIVATING KUFU'S APPLICATION,
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IT APPEARS HE FEARS BEING CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN THE

ALLEGED COUP PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT MOBUTU BECAUSE OF HIS
MILITARY TRAINING IN U.S.

2. THERE ARE FOUR OTHER ZAIRIAN OFFICERS UNDERGOING
TRAINING WITH KUFI. IT IS REPORTED BY FORT BELVOIR THAT
THE ZAIRIANS HAVE BEEN QUESTIONING HIS LOYALTY FOR SOME
TIME AND NOW SUSPECT THAT HE IS REQUESTING ASYLUM. THE
ZAIRE EMBASSY MAY ALSO BE AWARE OF HIS APPLICATION; ON
NOVEMBER 3 THE ZAIRIAN MILITARY ATTACHE CONTACTED FORT
BELVOIR INQUIRING ABOUT CAPTAIN KUFI'S RETURN TRIP TO
ZAIRE. IN THE INTERIM WHILE HIS APPLICATION IS BEING
PROCESSED, KUFI IS ATTENDING HIS USUAL CLASSES, IS BEING
TREATED AS ANY OTHER STUDENT AND DOD IS MAKING HIS
RESERVATIONS FOR HIS RETURN FLIGHT JUST AS IF HE HAD
NEVER APPLIED FOR ASYLUM.

3. INS HAS JURISDICTION IN SUCH CASES AND MAKES THE
FINAL DETERMINATION. HOWEVER, AS A MATTER OF COURSE,
INS ASKS THE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW CAREFULLY THE ACTUAL
PHYSICAL THREAT TO THE APPLICANT IF HE RETURNS TO HIS
COUNTRY AND THE POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES
INVOLVED IF HE IS GRANTED ASYLUM. IF THE EMBASSY FEELS
IT IS NOW IN A POSITION TO RENDER AN OPINION, THE
DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE A PRELIMINARY JUDGEMENT AS
TO THE EXTENT OF THE PERSONAL THREAT TO CAPTAIN KUFI'S
LIFE IF HE SHOULD RETURN TO ZAIRE. THE EMBASSY WILL BE
KEPT INFORMED OF THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE AS THEY ARE
DEVELOPED. KISSINGER

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